

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA
Norfolk Division**

JOHN ALEXANDER, on behalf of himself and
all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

GOOGLE LLC and ALPHABET INC.,

Defendants.

Case No. 21-cv-00018

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

Plaintiff John Alexander, (hereinafter, “Plaintiff”) on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated, brings this antitrust class action against Defendants Google LLC; and Alphabet Inc. (collectively, “Google” or “Defendants”), and allege as follows:

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This class action arises out of Google’s unlawful conduct concerning its Google Play Store. The Google Play Store was created by Google for the distribution and sale of mobile applications (“apps”) and in-app purchases for us on Android smartphones and other mobile devices utilizing the Android operating system. Google Play Store is available to mobile device users running Google’s Android operating system (“OS”). While Google claims that the Android OS is maintained as “open” source software, Google has engaged in a course of conduct designed to deter

competition in the market for Android apps and products sold with such apps (“Android App Market”).

2. Google has engaged in anticompetitive conduct through its distribution and pre-installation agreements with Android phone manufacturers, to monopolize the market for apps and in-app purchases.

3. Google’s monopolistic conduct is the subject of multiple government cases. The Justice Department, along with the States of Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, South Carolina, and Texas sued Google, on October 20, 2020, in the District of Columbia District Court. *See* Case 1:20-cv-03010. The complaint details Google’s agreements with Android phone manufacturers, including Mobile Application Distribution Agreements (“MADAs”), defined *infra*, and anti-forking agreements, which have enabled Google to carry out its monopolistic scheme.

4. Google has also, more recently, been sued by thirty-eight states, in a related case in the District of Columbia, based on its monopolistic conduct, including with respect to Android phones. *See* Case 1:20-cv-03715-APM.

5. By this action, Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and other consumers throughout the United States, seek monetary damages for economic losses suffered as a result of Google’s unlawful conduct, injunctive relief enjoining Google from continuing its anticompetitive conduct, and other relief.

II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

6. Plaintiff brings this action under Sections 4, 12, and 16 of the Clayton Act (15 U.S.C. §§ 15, 22, and 26) for treble damages, injunctive relief, other relief, and reasonable attorneys’ fees and costs with respect to the injuries sustained by Plaintiff arising from violations

by Defendants of the federal antitrust laws, including Section 2 of the Sherman Antitrust Act (15 U.S.C. § 2).

7. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to Sections 1331, 1337(a) and 1367 of Title 28 of the United States Code (28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1337(a) and 1367).

8. This Court has *in personam* jurisdiction over Defendants because each, directly and/or through its ownership or control of subsidiaries: (a) transacted business in the United States, including in this District; (b) had substantial aggregate contacts with the United States, including this District; and/or (c) engaged in anticompetitive acts that were directed at, and had a direct, substantial, and reasonably foreseeable and intended effect of injuring, the business or property of persons and entities residing in, located in, or doing business throughout the United States, including in this District. Defendants conduct business throughout the United States, including in this District, and have purposefully availed themselves of the laws of the United States.

9. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to Sections 15 and 22 of Title 15 of the United States Code (15 U.S.C. §§ 15 and 22) and Sections 1391(b) and (c) of Title 28 of the United States Code (28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) and (c)) because a substantial portion of the affected interstate trade and commerce was carried out in this District. Each Defendant has transacted business, maintained substantial contacts, and/or committed overt acts in furtherance of the illegal restraint of trade throughout this District. The anticompetitive conduct alleged herein has been directed at, and has had the intended effect of, causing injury to persons residing in, located in, or doing business in this District.

III. PARTIES

10. Plaintiff John Alexander is a natural person who resides in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Plaintiff Alexander purchased and paid Google for one or more apps through the Google Play Store within the relevant statutory period.

11. Google LLC is a limited liability company organized under the laws of Delaware with its principal place of business in Mountain View, California. Google LLC is a technology company that provides internet-related services and products, including online advertising technologies and a search engine.

12. Alphabet Inc. is a Delaware corporation and has its principal place of business in Mountain View, California. Google LLC is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Alphabet Inc.

13. Google LLC and Alphabet Inc. are collectively referred to herein as “Google.”

IV. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

A. History of Google

14. Google was officially launched in 1998 by Larry Page and Sergey Brin as a general online search engine that served users web results in response to online queries. Google’s key innovation was its PageRank algorithm, which ranked the relevance of a webpage by assessing how many other webpages linked to it. PageRank proved to be the backbone of Google’s search engine and enabled Google to improve the quality of its search results even as the web rapidly grew in contrast with the technology used by rival search engines. While Google had entered a crowded field, it had become the world’s largest search engine by 2000. Google launched AdWords, an online advertising service that let businesses purchase keyword advertising to appear on Google’s search results page—an offering that would evolve to become the heart of Google’s business model—later that year.

15. Google is now ubiquitous across the digital economy, serving as the infrastructure for core products and services online. It has grown and maintained its search engine dominance, such that “Googling” something is now synonymous with online search itself. Google is now also the largest provider of digital advertising, a leading web browser, a dominant mobile operating system, and a major provider of digital mapping, email, cloud computing, and voice assistant services, alongside dozens of other offerings. Nine of Google’s products—Android, Chrome, Gmail, Google Search, Google Drive, Google Maps, Google Photos, Google Play Store, and YouTube—have more than a billion users each. Each of these services provides Google with a trove of user data, reinforcing its dominance across markets and driving greater monetization through online ads.

16. Google is one of the world’s largest corporations. For 2019, Google reported total revenues of \$160.7 billion—up 45% from 2017—and more than \$33 billion in net income. Google has enjoyed strong and steady profits, with profit margins greater than 20 percent for nine out of the last 10 years, close to three times larger than the average for a U.S. firm. Financial analysts predict that Google is well positioned to maintain its dominance, noting that “Alphabet has established unusually deep competitive moats around its business.”

B. The Android App Market

17. In the late 1990s and early 2000s, when Google was formed, internet searches were almost exclusively performed through browsers on computers. However, over the past two decades, individuals increasingly used non-desktop devices to access the internet, such as phones and other mobile devices. Thus, Google developed and launched a business policy to target users of mobile devices and to ensure their products adopt versions of Google’s technology, products and operating systems.

18. Mobile applications (“apps”) are the most common way by which consumers use their smart mobile devices. A mobile app is a type of software specifically designed for use on a mobile device to provide access to digital content or services. Popular mobile apps allow users to share content or play games and, importantly, permit “in app” sale or purchase transactions for goods and services.

19. Mobile apps can be pre-installed on a mobile device as a component of the OS by the Original Equipment Manufacturer (“OEM”), or otherwise loaded directly onto the mobile device from the web using a web browser (a process that Google refers to as “sideloading”).

20. Consumers can access mobile apps in several ways. The dominant way that consumers access mobile apps is through an app store, which itself may be preinstalled on the mobile device. Google uses its Google Play Store to control the mobile app market for devices using the Android OS.

21. An app store is the central point for users to access mobile apps. It centralizes and curates the distribution of mobile apps in a convenient manner for users, and allows users to search, review and buy a mobile app in one spot.

22. There is separate market for mobile apps specific to the OS, including apps developed for Apple iOS and only work on Apple mobile devices and apps developed for Android OS and only work on Android mobile devices. For the same reason, Apple’s App Store and the Google Play Store do not compete against one another.

23. In order to establish dominance, Google released the Android mobile operating system. Google released the Android code for free as “open source,” which means that anyone could access the code and modify it. Modifying the operating system constitutes a “fork.”

24. The open source aspect of the Android OS was key to its wide adoption by OEMs (such as LG, Motorola, Samsung, etc.) and phone carriers (such as AT&T, T-Mobile/Spring, Verizon, etc.). Google's supposed lack of control over an open source OS led skeptical OEMs and phone carriers to use Android instead of other choices then available. The open source model suggested that the distributors, and not Google, would ultimately retain control over their devices and the app ecosystem on those devices.

25. However, once the distributors agreed to use Android OS, app developers looking for wide distribution of their apps were then incentivized by Google to develop apps compatible with Android OS. As more apps became available on Android OS, the operating system became more attractive to consumers which in turn led to even more developers designing for Android.

26. To achieve desired network effects and make the Android system ubiquitous, Google then "shared" its search advertising and app store revenues with distributors to further induce distributors to give up control over the OS and what apps come preinstalled on mobile devices.

27. Google solidified market dominance of Android OS through a series of contracts with distributors designed to minimize competition. Google requires OEMs such as LG, Motorola, and Samsung to enter "anti-forking agreements." These agreements specifically forbid OEMs from developing or distributing versions of Android that do not comply with onerous Google-controlled technical standards. The signatories may not distribute devices with Android forks, or use their powerful brands to market forks on behalf of third parties. As a result of Google's anticompetitive practices, Android OS represents over 95 percent of licensable mobile operating systems for smartphones and tablets in the United States.

28. With control over the dominant Android OS, Google exercised its monopoly power to establish the Google Play Store as the dominant “store” by which other applications can be downloaded for use by consumers on the Android ecosystem. For devices that use the Android OS, the dominant app store is the Google Play Store, which has approximately 2.56 million apps available for download or purchase. Over 90 percent of apps downloaded or purchased from an Android device come from the Google Play Store.

29. Google required that mobile device OEMs pre-install the Google Play Store on all mobile devices, knowing that users rarely change defaults. Google also refuses to allow any rival app store to be downloaded from the Google Play Store. Indeed, third-party app stores could only be accessed by “sideloading,” a complicated multi-step process where users are warned that sideloading is unsafe. Thus, while Google theoretically permits sideloading third-party app stores, few users pursue this option because Google implements significant frictions designed to steer consumers away from sideloading.

30. Google also limits basic app functions that are available to apps downloaded on the Google Play Store, including making it more difficult for users to update apps (versus automatic updates in the mobile device’s background).

31. Because the Google Play Store is the primary way users install applications on Android devices, the Play Store effectively functions as a gatekeeper for software distribution on all mobile devices with Android OS.

32. As a result of its monopolistic conduct, Google has extracted supracompetitive prices for its Android app distribution services and in-app purchases made through the Google Play Store, including a 30 percent commission on sales of paid apps and a 30 percent fee for in-

app purchases. Google collects and processes these commissions and fees directly from Plaintiff and Class Members, remitting the remainder of their payment to the mobile app developer.

33. Google uses its gatekeeping power over third-party app developers through arbitrary and unaccountable enforcement of Play Store policies, which then protect the dominance of Google's own services and stifles rivals. For example, one mobile app "Callsome" was banned from the Google Play store for "Ad Policy" violations only to learn later that an identical product was able to stay and thrive in the Play Store. Callsome believes it was banned because of its partnership with SmartApp, which at the time was widely considered to be a nascent but rising rival to Google in the Russian market.

C. Google's Willful Acquisition and Maintenance of its Monopoly in the Android App Market

34. Google maintains a monopoly in the Android App Market and is able to charge supracompetitive prices for mobile app and in-app purchases. Google uses anticompetitive covenants in Google's Mobile Application Distribution Agreement ("MADA"), requiring OEMs to license the entire suite of Google applications and services in order to also license the Android OS. Google also requires OEMs to pre-install the Google Play Store on its home page. If OEM refuse these restrictive terms and conditions, they lose access to the Android OS.

35. As a result of the MADA terms and conditions, Google has successfully prevented competition from its rivals in the Android App Market. Google's MADA agreements also allow Google to charge supracompetitive prices for mobile app and in-app purchases, harming Plaintiff and Class Members by limiting consumer choice.

36. Similarly, Google uses its Developer Distribution Agreement ("DDA") to contractually restrict competition in the Android App Market. Amongst other terms, the DDA

mandated that developers comply with Google’s Developer Program Policies, including using Google’s proprietary in-app billing for in-app game payments, as well as certain other digital in-app purchases. The DDA also requires that developers “may not use Google Play to distribute or make available any Product that has a purpose that facilitates the distribution of software applications and games for use on Android devices outside of Google Play.” Google has the right to remove any Android app it believes has violated any portion of the DDA.

V. ANTITRUST INJURY

37. Plaintiff and Class Members purchased Android mobile apps and in-app digital content directly from Google through the Google Play Store. Without the unlawful restraints described above, Plaintiff and Class Members would not have to pay supra competitive price for mobile apps and in-app purchases. Google’s anticompetitive practices also stalled, limited or foreclosed competition and innovation in the Android App Market.

VI. MARKET DEFINITION

38. The relevant product market is the market for Android mobile apps and in-app purchases. The relevant geographic market for purposes for this action is the United States and its territories. Google has significant and durable power in this market, app stores and mobile apps are developed and distributed throughout the United States, and Google’s Play Store is available to Android users throughout the United States.

VII. TOLLING OF STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS

39. Plaintiff and Class members had no knowledge of Google’s anticompetitive conduct, or of facts sufficient to place them on inquiry notice of the claims asserted herein, during the Class period and continuing thereafter, until October 2020 when the United States House of

Representatives published its Investigation of Competition in Digital Markets and provided details concerning Google and its conduct.

40. Plaintiff and Class members suffered economic loss due to Google's wrongful exercise of monopoly power. Plaintiff's interactions with Google were insufficient, however, to discover Google's wrongful conduct.

41. Furthermore, no public information was available during the Class period or thereafter that suggests Google's business activities were done to monopolize the Android App Market until the House published the Report of its investigation against Google.

42. Moreover, it was reasonable for Plaintiff and Class members not to suspect that Defendants were engaging in any unlawful anticompetitive behavior. Plaintiff and class members are merely consumers of apps and were not active participants in the market.

43. Plaintiff alleges a continuing course of unlawful conduct by Google, including conduct within the applicable limitation periods. That conduct has inflicted continuing and accumulating harm within the applicable statutes of limitation.

44. For these reasons, the statutes of limitations applicable to Plaintiff's and Class members' claims have been tolled with respect to the claims asserted herein until the House Report about Google became public.

45. Additionally, or alternatively, application of the doctrine of fraudulent concealment tolled the statutes of limitations on Plaintiff's claims. Plaintiff and Class members had no knowledge of Google's wrongful acquisition and maintenance of monopoly power in the relevant market, or of facts sufficient to place them on inquiry notice of their claims, during the Class period and continuing thereafter. No information in the public domain or otherwise available to Plaintiff

and Class members during the Class period suggested that Google had wrongfully acquired a monopoly or was using its monopoly power to charge supra-competitive prices.

46. In failing to disclose its wrongful monopolization, in addition to denying it was engaged in such conduct, Google was able to conceal its illicit conduct. In fact, Google has made public denials to this effect in the United States and to foreign regulators.

47. After it was revealed that the House was investigating Google's monopoly, Google denied such conduct. Similarly, in response to recent news reports of impending antitrust actions against it by federal and state officials for monopolization, Google stated publicly that competition is flourishing, and publishers and marketers have enormous choice when that was plainly incorrect.

48. Further, Google's anticompetitive monopoly conduct was inherently self-concealing because, as Google knew, its disclosure likely would have led to governmental enforcement activity or civil liability. Google's conduct is subject to antitrust regulation, so it was reasonable for Plaintiff and Class members to presume that it was purchasing apps in a competitive market. A reasonable person under the circumstances would not have had occasion to suspect that apps were being sold at supra-competitive prices at any time during the Class period.

VIII. CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

49. Plaintiff brings this action both on behalf of himself and as a class action pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(b)(2) and (b)(3) on behalf of the following Class:

All persons and entities in the United States that made payment to Google for a mobile app on the Google Play Store, subscription fees for a mobile app obtained on the Google Play Store, or app content from a mobile app downloaded from the Google App Store, from at least as early as January 1, 2016 through the present ("Class Period").

50. This definition specifically excludes any of the Defendants named herein, any of the Defendants' parent companies, subsidiaries, and affiliates, and any of the Defendants' officers,

directors, management, employees, subsidiaries, affiliates or agents. Plaintiff reserves the right to expand, modify, or alter the class definition in response to information learned during discovery.

51. This action is properly brought as a class action under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(a) for the following reasons:

- a. **Numerosity (Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(1)):** The proposed Class is so numerous and geographically dispersed that the joinder of all Class Members is impracticable. While Plaintiff does not know the exact number and identity of all Class Members, Plaintiff is informed and believe that there are millions of Class Members. The precise number of Class Members can be ascertained through discovery;
- b. **Commonality and Predominance (Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(2) and 23(b)(3)):** There are questions of law and fact common to the proposed class which predominate over any questions that may affect particular Class Members. Such common questions of law and fact include, but are not limited to:
 - i. Whether Defendants monopolized the market for Android Mobile Apps at any time during the Class Period;
 - ii. Whether Google unlawfully acquired and maintained monopoly power in the relevant market;
 - iii. Whether Plaintiff and the other members of the Class were injured by Defendants' conduct and, if so, the determination of the appropriate Class-wide measure of damages;

- iv. Whether Plaintiff and other members of the Class are entitled to, among other things, injunctive relief, and, if so, the nature and extent of such relief;
 - v. Whether the alleged conspiracy violated the Sherman Act;
 - vi. Whether Plaintiff and members of the Class had any reason to know or suspect the conspiracy, or any means to discover the conspiracy; and
 - vii. Whether the Defendants and their co-conspirators fraudulently concealed the conspiracy's existence from Plaintiff and the members of the Class.
- c. **Typicality (Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(3)):** Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the members of the proposed Class. Plaintiff and the Class have been injured by the same wrongful practices of Defendants. Plaintiff's claims arise from the same practices and conduct that give rise to the claims of the Class and are based on the same legal theories; and
- d. **Adequacy of Representation (Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(4)):** Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Class in that he has no interests antagonistic to those of the other members of the Class, and Plaintiff has retained attorneys experienced in antitrust class actions and complex litigation as counsel.

52. This action is properly brought as a class action under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(b) for the following reasons:

- a. **Declaratory and Injunctive Relief (Fed. R. C. P. 23(b)(2)):** Certification under Rule 23(b)(2) is warranted because Defendants acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to the Class, thereby making appropriate final injunctive, declaratory, or other appropriate equitable relief with respect to the Class as a whole.
- b. **Superiority (Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(3)):** Certification under Rule 23(b)(3) is appropriate because questions of law or fact common to members of the Class predominate over any questions affecting only individual members, and class action treatment is superior to the other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy.
- c. The proposed Class is ascertainable and there is a well-defined community of interest in the questions of law or fact alleged herein since the rights of each proposed Class Member were infringed or violated in the same fashion.

53. A class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy for at least the following reasons:

- a. Given the size of individual Class Members' claims and the expense of litigating those claims, few, if any, Class Members could afford to or would seek legal redress individually for the wrongs Defendants committed against them and absent Class Members have no substantial interest in individually controlling the prosecution of individual actions;

- b. This action will promote an orderly and expeditious administration and adjudication of the proposed Class claims, economies of time, effort and resources will be fostered, and uniformity of decisions will be insured;
- c. Without a class action, Class Members will suffer damages, and Defendant's violations of law will proceed without remedy while Defendants reaped and retained the substantial proceeds of their wrongful conduct; and
- d. Plaintiff knows of no difficulty that will be encountered in the management of this litigation which would preclude its maintenance as a class action.

IX. CAUSES OF ACTION

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

Violation of Sherman Act – Unlawful Monopoly and/or Maintenance of Monopoly **(15 U.S.C. § 2)** **(Against all Defendants)**

54. Plaintiff hereby repeats and incorporates by reference each preceding paragraph as if fully stated herein.

55. Plaintiff brings this claim on his own behalf and on behalf of each member of the Class described above.

56. The relevant market is the U.S. market for mobile apps and in-app purchases sold in the Android App Market.

57. Google has gained and maintains monopoly power in the relevant market by improper and unlawful means. More specifically, Google has willfully acquired and maintained such power by coercing the purchase of Android Mobile Apps and in-app products and services at artificial prices and by its patently exclusionary conduct, including its refusal to allow rival app stores to be accessed through the Google Play Store and implementing significant frictions

designed to steer consumers away from sideloading third-party app stores. Consumers must use the Android App Market to obtain Android mobile apps and in-app purchases.

58. For the reasons stated herein, substantial barriers to entry exist in the relevant market.

59. Google has the power to exclude competition in the relevant market, and it has used that power, including by way of its unlawful practices in restraint of trade as described herein, to maintain and expand its monopoly power in that market.

60. Google's conduct as described herein, including its unlawful practices in restraint of trade, is exclusionary vis-à-vis its rival app stores in the U.S. market for Android mobile apps and in-app purchases.

61. Google has behaved as alleged herein in an attempt to obtain a monopoly in the U.S. market for Android mobile apps and in-app purchases, with the effect being that competition is foreclosed, innovation is stifled, and consumer choice is gravely diminished. Additionally, Google has abused its market power by charging supra-competitive 30 percent commission on sales of paid apps and a 30 percent fee for in-app purchases. Further, Google's actions have depressed output and stifled innovation and options for consumers as alleged herein.

62. There is no business necessity or other pro-competitive justification for Google's conduct.

63. As a direct and proximate cause of Google's conduct, Plaintiff and members of the Class have suffered antitrust injury. Plaintiff and the Class members paid significantly higher prices for Android mobile apps and in-app purchases than they would have but for Google's unlawful conduct. That conduct also deprived Plaintiff and Class members of improved quality and innovation in the relevant markets.

64. Plaintiff is inclined to continue to purchase Android mobile apps and in-app purchases in the future because of his investment in the mobile device containing the Android OS.

65. Plaintiff and members of the Class are entitled to damages, including treble damages, sustained because of Google's monopolistic acts and practices.

66. Plaintiff and members of the Class are entitled to equitable relief as appropriate to cure Google's monopoly conduct and restore competition in the relevant market. Members of the Class are regular users of the Android App Market and will continue to purchase such apps and in-app products and services and suffer further injury if Google's monopoly is not ended.

67. Plaintiff and the Class also are entitled to injunctive relief to prevent Google from persisting in its unlawful, inequitable, and unjustified behavior to their detriment, with such an injunction at a minimum prohibiting Google from continuing to: charge supra-competitive commission on sales of paid apps and a supra-competitive percent fee for in-app purchases. *See, e.g.*, 15 U.S.C. § 26.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION
Violation of Sherman Act – Attempted Monopolization
(15 U.S.C. § 2)
(Against all Defendants)

68. Plaintiff hereby repeats and incorporates by reference each preceding paragraph as if fully stated herein.

69. Plaintiff brings this claim on his own behalf and on behalf of each member of the Class described above.

70. The relevant market is the U.S. market for mobile apps and in-app purchases sold in the Android App Market.

71. Google has attempted to monopolize the U.S. market for Android mobile apps. More specifically, Google has willfully acquired and maintained market power by its patently

exclusionary conduct, including its refusal to allow rival app stores to be accessed through the Google Play Store and implementing significant frictions designed to steer consumers away from sideloading third-party app stores. Consumers must use the Android App Market to obtain Android mobile apps and in-app purchases.

72. Google's anticompetitive conduct has created a dangerous probability that it will achieve monopoly power in the U.S. market for Android mobile apps and in-app purchases.

73. Google has a specific intent to achieve monopoly power in the U.S. market for Android mobile apps and in-app purchases. Now, and if its unlawful restraints are not checked, Google has a dangerous probability of success in the relevant market as defined by the Plaintiff.

74. Google has the power to exclude competition in the U.S. market for Android mobile apps and in-app purchases, and it has used that power, including by way of its unlawful practices in restraint of trade as described herein, in an attempt to monopolize that relevant market.

75. Google's conduct as described herein, including its unlawful practices in restraint of trade, is exclusionary vis-à-vis its rival app stores in the U.S. market for Android mobile apps and in-app purchases.

76. Google has behaved as alleged herein in an attempt to obtain a monopoly in the U.S. market for Android mobile apps and in-app purchases, with the effect being that competition is foreclosed, innovation is stifled, and consumer choice is gravely diminished. Additionally, Google has abused its market power by charging supra-competitive 30 percent commission on sales of paid apps and a 30 percent fee for in-app purchases. Further, Google's actions have depressed output and stifled innovation and options for consumers as alleged herein.

77. There is no business necessity or other pro-competitive justification for Google's conduct.

78. Plaintiff and the Class have been injured, and will continue to be injured, in their property as a result of Google's conduct, including by way of overpaying for Android mobile apps and in-app purchases.

79. Plaintiff is inclined to continue to purchase Android mobile apps and in-app purchases in the future because of his investment in the mobile device containing the Android OS.

80. Plaintiff and the Class also are entitled to injunctive relief to prevent Google from persisting in its unlawful, inequitable, and unjustified behavior to their detriment, with such an injunction at a minimum prohibiting Google from continuing to: charge supra-competitive commission on sales of paid apps and a supra-competitive percent fee for in-app purchases. *See, e.g.*, 15 U.S.C. § 26.

X. PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff requests that the Court enter judgment on his behalf and on behalf of the Class defined herein, by adjudging and decreeing:

81. That this action may be maintained as a class action under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(b)(2), (b)(3), and (c)(4) that Plaintiff be certified as Class representative, and Plaintiff's counsel be appointed as counsel for the Class;

82. That the unlawful contract, combination, or conspiracy alleged be adjudged and decreed to be an unreasonable restraint of trade or commerce in violation of Section 2 of the Sherman Act;

83. That Plaintiff and the Class have been injured in their business and property as a result of Defendants' violations;

84. That Plaintiff and the Class recover damages, as provided by law, determined to have been sustained as to each of them, in an amount to be trebled in accordance with the antitrust laws, and that judgment be entered against Defendants on behalf of Plaintiff and the Class;

85. Plaintiff and the Class recover their costs of suit, including reasonable attorneys' fees, costs, and expenses of the lawsuit, as provided by law;

86. That Defendants, their subsidiaries, affiliates, successors, transferees, assignees and the respective officers, directors, partners, agents, and employees thereof and all other persons acting or claiming to act on their behalf be permanently enjoined and restrained from continuing and maintaining the combination, conspiracy, or agreement alleged herein;

87. That Plaintiff and the Class be awarded pre-judgment and post-judgment interest, and that such interest be awarded at the highest legal rate from and after the date of service of the initial complaint in this action;

88. That Plaintiff and the Class are entitled to equitable relief appropriate to remedy Defendants' past and ongoing restraint of trade, including:

- i. A judicial determination declaring the rights of Plaintiff and the Class, and the corresponding responsibilities of Defendants; and
- ii. Issuance of a permanent injunction against Defendants and their parents, subsidiaries, affiliates, successors, transferees, assignees and the Respective officers, directors, partners, agents, and employees thereof and all other persons acting or claiming to act on their behalf from violations of the law as alleged herein.

89. That Defendants are to be jointly and severally responsible financially for the costs and expenses of a Court-approved notice program through post and media designed to give immediate notification to the Class; and

90. For such other and further relief as is just under the circumstances.

XI. DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 38(b), Plaintiff and the Class demand a trial by jury of all the claims asserted in this complaint that are so triable.

Dated: January 8, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

TOSTRUD LAW GROUP, P.C.

/s/ Anthony M. Carter

Anthony M. Carter (Bar No. 39736)

Jon A. Tostrud (*pro hac vice forthcoming*)

1925 Century Park East, Suite 2100

Los Angeles, CA 90067

Telephone: (310) 278-2600

Facsimile: (310) 278-2640

acarter@tostrudlaw.com

jtostrud@tostrudlaw.com

*Attorneys for Plaintiff John Alexander and the
Proposed Class*